

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition submitted the Fair Share Plan to the FCC on January 31, 2005. It expands who pays into the USF so that other technologies - not just phones - pay into the system. The Fair Share Plan collects the USF using a combination numbers- and revenue-based plan. This keeps the system fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

Under the flat fee or numbers-based plan you are considering, people like me who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. I believe it would be unfair to charge low-volume and residential customers the same fees as high-volume residential or business customers.

I urge you to keep the USF fair, and adopt the Fair Share Plan. Thank you, and best of luck in your new position.

I live in Maine...where 50% of the people cannot get adequate cell phone service for emergency use. Therefore, in many areas, Tracfone is the only halfway affordable or practical choice. I currently pay \$50 a month for a US Cellular phone which I cannot use unless I am a long way from home. It is a waste of money. In addition, living in this rural area of Maine prohibits me from having cable TV, any sort of internet service except the slow and inefficient dialup service, which is very poor since I live in a rural area. I must pay a local phone service, a long distance phone service, a dialup internet provider, a cell phone service (will cancel and use my Tracfone in a year when the contract expires) and so now minutes for a Tracfone. The living conditions in Maine are below average and we do not enjoy the amenities that the rest of the country has. Please do allow us to be able to afford at minimum a Tracfone for emergency usage.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Secretary

Sincerely,

Patricia Richards
1012 School Street
Canton, Maine 04221